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November 2, 1972

Mr. President:

You may wish to know the following.

I was telephoned today by Pat Collins of the Washington Evening Star. He said that a team on the Star, including Jeremiah O'Leary, has been working for some time on a story which involves President Johnson. The story runs as follows:

President Johnson put the FBI to work investigating the Nixon campaign in 1968. There are two versions of what the FBI did. One version alleges that President Johnson instructed the FBI to investigate Communist infiltration of the Nixon camp. The other version alleges that President Johnson instructed the FBI to investigate action by members of the Nixon camp to slow down the peace negotiations in Paris before the 1968 election.

After the election J. Edgar Hoover informed President Nixon of what he had been instructed to do by President Johnson. President Nixon is alleged to have been outraged. He stated that responsibility for investigating Communist infiltration of American political parties should be transferred to the CIA.

Mr. Collins went on to say that 4 of the men involved in the Watergate operation are believed to have had CIA connections. It is also reported that in 1969 the CIA, according to this account, investigated the possibility of Communist infiltration into the Democratic Party.

Mr. Collins asked did I have any information bearing on this story and any comment on it. I said that I knew nothing about the matter and have no comment.

W. W. Rostow

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